

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Luke 18:35-43

### Opening

Gathering: How do people react when they see someone else's faith in action?

Today's Focus: Bartimaeus demonstrated faith in Jesus and was healed.

Key Verses: *He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* Luke 18:38

*They called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.* Mark 10:49-50

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Popular Jesus (*Mark 10:1*)

How popular had Jesus become after 3 years of preaching, teaching, healing and miracles?

Mark 10:1 = Crowds followed Him wherever He went. He taught them.

Did Jesus ever have trouble getting away by Himself?

Mark 7:24-26 = People found Him even when He tried to hide, even outside Jewish regions

Did Jesus get upset when people interrupted His attempts at privacy? = Feeding the 5000

Mark 6:27, 30-34 = Went away after John's death, had compassion on waiting crowd

How far did His compassion extend for the "faceless" crowds?

Mark 8:1-9a = Fed 4000 with 7 loaves because of compassion

How did Jesus view the people in the crowds?

Mark 3:32-35 = As His close family (brothers and mother)

Attractions

What were some of the reasons people flocked to Jesus? = Get answers from class before reading

Mark 9:15 = Curiosity - *they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him*

Mark 8:11 = To see a miracle

Mark 4:1-2 = To listen to Him and learn

Mark 10:17 = Wanted answers to serious questions

Mark 10:13, 16 = To get blessings for them and their loved ones

Mark 7:32 = To get healing for themselves and their loved ones

Trying to Get to Jesus

How assertively did people try to get healing from Jesus? = Get answers from class before reading

Mark 1:40 = They begged Him, even on their knees

Mark 2:1-4 = Broke a hole through a roof and lowered a paralyzed friend through it

Mark 3:9-10 = They pushed forward so much He needed a boat

Mark 5:24-29 = Woman believed she'd be healed if she just touched His cloak, did so secretly

Mark 6:54-56 = *Carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was*

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### The Messiah Who Heals (*Matthew 11:2-5*)

Didn't these miracles of healing interfere with Jesus' mission to call people to saving faith?  
Mark 5:18-20 = The healed were brought to saving faith and word of Jesus spread  
How did Jesus use His healing ministry as a sign of who He was? = poor hear good news  
Matthew 11:2-5 = The blind see, lame walk, lepers cured, deaf hear, dead raised  
How would the disciples of John the Baptist understand from this who Jesus was?  
Isaiah 35:5-6a = Messianic prophesy: blind see, deaf hear, lame leap, mute shout  
Isaiah 26:19 = *Your dead will live, their bodies will rise*  
Isaiah 61:1 = *Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor*

### Outside Jericho (*Luke 18:35*)

Who gave Jesus His last chance for a healing miracle before His final entry into Jerusalem?  
Luke 18:35 = A blind man was begging by the road outside Jericho  
How does this appear to conflict with the story in Matthew and Mark?  
Matthew 20:29 = Matthew and Mark say they were leaving Jericho, Luke says coming to

Jericho - A tropical oasis called "The City of Palms" (Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 3:13)  
800 ft below sea level, 5 miles west of Jordan River, 8 miles from where Jordan hits Dead Sea  
Jericho is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world; Three different Jerichos  
Old Testament Jericho - Destroyed by God (Joshua 6), Rebuilt under King Ahab (faithless)  
Joshua 6:26 = Joshua proclaimed curse over anyone who dared to rebuild Jericho  
1 Kings 16:34 = Hiel rebuilt Jericho at costs of first and youngest sons  
New Testament Jericho - Built by King Herod for a winter palace; a mile south of OT Jericho  
Modern Jericho - Called er-Riha today; About a mile east of New Testament Jericho  
Matthew and Mark (Jews) saw Jesus leaving Old Testament Jericho  
Luke (Greek) saw Jesus approaching New Testament Jericho

### Blind Bartimaeus (*Luke 18:36-37*)

What does Mark tell us about the blind man that Luke said was sitting by the roadside?  
Mark 10:46 = He was called Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus)  
Was Bartimaeus sitting by himself?  
Matthew 20:30 = No, he had a blind friend with him  
Since he was blind, how did he know Jesus was walking by?  
Luke 18:36-37 = Heard the crowd going by, asked about it, was told it was Jesus

### Bartimaeus' Perfect Vision (*Luke 18:38*)

How did he call to Jesus that showed that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah?  
Luke 18:38 = He heard it was Jesus of Nazareth; called Him Jesus, Son of David  
What does calling Jesus a descendant of David have to do with calling Him the Messiah?  
Jeremiah 33:14-16 = Son of David was a title for Messiah - *raise a righteous Branch to David*  
How did this call show that Bartimaeus was one of few who could really see?  
Matthew 13:11-17 = Only Jesus' chosen can see the secrets of His kingdom  
Why is it important for us to call on Jesus' name like Bartimaeus did?  
Acts 4:12 = *There is no other name under heaven given to man by which we must be saved.*  
Who are the real blind?  
Revelation 3:17 = Those who feel they have no need for Jesus' help

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### Bartimaeus' Need and Persistence (*Mark 10:47; Luke 18:39*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Mark 10:47 = For Jesus to have mercy on him

For what are we to ask? = Kyrie is Greek for *Lord, have mercy*

Psalm 30:10 = Mercy - Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy

Why do we need God's mercy?

Luke 18:13 = Because we deserve only death and punishment as sinners

*Grace is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.*

How seriously did Bartimaeus desire the Savior's mercy?

Luke 18:39 = He just hollered louder when told to be quiet

Why was Bartimaeus so persistent with his request?

Matthew 20:29 = It was his one and only chance to be healed by Jesus (leaving)

### Our Persistence (*Luke 18:1-8*)

What parable did Jesus give to show we should be persistent with our requests to God?

Luke 18:1-5 = The widow who persistently asked an unjust judge for justice

What promise does Jesus make when we pray persistently?

Luke 18:6-8 = God will answer our prayers, and quickly (God's time)

Do we have to pray persistently for God to answer?

Mark 11:24 = No, just have faith and believe

Do we have to pray persistently to get God's attention? = God is always ready to listen

Luke 11:9-10 = Ask and it will be given, seek and find, knock and door opened

So why did Jesus teach us to be persistent? = He will give us whatever we ask for in His Will

John 14:12-14 = To give us time to bring ourselves closer to Him

### Bartimaeus Answers Jesus' Call (*Luke 18:40*)

Did Jesus hear Bartimaeus' pleas above the noise of the crowd?

Mark 10:49 = Yes, He stopped and directed all of His attention to Bartimaeus

Why did Jesus stop and call for Bartimaeus instead of going to him?

Luke 9:59-62 = He gave Bartimaeus the opportunity to respond to His call in faith

What does Jesus promise to those who hear His call and answer?

Revelation 3:20 = *If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in*

How did Bartimaeus answer Jesus' call? = Got rid of possible obstacle to reaching Jesus

Mark 10:50 = He threw his cloak aside, jumped to his feet and came to Jesus

### Leaving Things Behind (*Mark 10:50*)

What other examples does the Bible give of people leaving things to come to Christ?

John 4:7, 28-29 = Samaritan woman left her water jar to tell others about Jesus

Matthew 9:9 = Matthew left his tax collector's booth and lucrative tax collection business

Mark 1:16-20 = Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John left their boats, nets and business

Acts 9:15-16 = Paul left good, respected Pharisee life to suffer and teach Gentiles

What did Jesus say about those who are called but refuse to leave things to follow Him?

Luke 14:16-24 = They will not taste of His banquet

What does Jesus promise to those who leave the things of the world for Him?

Mark 10:28-30 = 100-fold blessings on earth and eternal life in heaven

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### Jesus Offers (*Mark 10:51*)

What did Jesus ask Bartimaeus when he came to Him?

Mark 10:51 = *What do you want me to do for you?*

Did Jesus have to ask this question?

Matthew 6:8 = No, He *knows what you need before you ask Him*

Why did Jesus ask it? = He wants us to ask

Philippians 4:6-7 = *Present your requests to God to receive His peace*

### Jesus Heals (*Luke 18:41-42*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Luke 18:41 = To be able to see

How did Jesus give Bartimaeus his sight?

Luke 18:42 = He spoke to him

Didn't Jesus have to do something more than just speak?

Genesis 1:3 = *And God said ... All of creation was made by God speaking*

John 1:1-3 = Jesus is The Word, *Through Him all things were made*

### Saving Faith (*Luke 18:43*)

What saved Bartimaeus from his blindness?

Mark 10:52 = His faith

What saves us from our blindness?

1 Peter 2:9-10 = Jesus has called us out of our darkness and given us His mercy

John 8:12 = Jesus is the light of the world and gives us the light of life

John 3:19, 21 = Whoever believes (has faith) comes into the light

How did Bartimaeus respond to his healed vision?

Luke 18:43 = He followed Jesus, praised God, led others to praise God

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I really recognized my need for God's mercy?  
(*Luke 18:38-39; Psalm 28:6; 57:1; Proverbs 28:13; Daniel 9:9; Micah 6:8; 7:18; Matthew 5:7; Luke 1:50; 6:36; 18:13; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3; 2:10*)
2. How persistently do I pray?  
(*Luke 18:1-8, 38-39; 11:1-13; Isaiah 40:31; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*)
3. What have I left for the sake of Christ?  
(*Mark 10:50; Luke 5:1-11, 27-28; 9:23-25, 57-62; 14:16-27; 18:28-30*)
4. What have I been able to see and understand as a result of being a disciple of Jesus?  
(*Luke 18:41-43; John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:1-5, 24-27; 12:37-46; 14:26; 17:6; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10*)
5. When has my faith led others to praise God?  
(*Luke 18:43; Matthew 5:14-16; 9:1-8; 15:30-31; John 15:8; Acts 4:18-21; 11:18; 21:17-20a*)